IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for adding a secondary information signal to a runlength-limited code sequence, said method comprising the steps of:

a) detecting a polarity of a runlength at a first predetermined position of said runlength-limited code sequence; and

b) setting a parameter reflecting the degree of freedom in the runlength-limited coding ~~(e.g. a merging bit pattern in the case of CD)~~ based on said detected runlength polarity so as to obtain a predetermined polarity of a runlength at a second predetermined position of said runlength-limited code sequence, said parameter reflecting the degree of freedom in the runlength-limited coding, preceding said second predetermined position;

c) wherein said predetermined polarity corresponds to a binary value of said secondary information signal.

2. (Original) A method for extracting a secondary information signal from a runlength-limited code sequence, said method comprising the steps of:

a) extracting a runlength at a predetermined position of said runlength-limited code sequence; and

b) detecting a polarity of said extracted runlength;

c) wherein said detecting polarity corresponds to a binary value of said secondary information signal.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~according to~~ as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said secondary information signal is a hidden channel information for copy protection of a record carrier.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~according to~~ as claimed in claim 2, wherein said extraction step is performed by using a detected bit stream of said runlength-limited code sequence.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~according to~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first predetermined position corresponds to a predetermined runlength of a frame synchronization word, and said second predetermined position corresponds to a predetermined runlength of a S0 sync-pattern of a subcode block in CD, following said frame synchronization word in the first frame of a SubCode block.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~according to~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein said method further ~~comprising~~ comprises the step of:

_____switching off a DC-control function of said set merging bit pattern.

7. (Currently Amended) A device for adding a secondary information to a runlength-limited code sequence, said device comprising:

a) detecting means ~~(19)~~ for detecting a polarity of a runlength at a first predetermined position of said runlength-limited code sequence;

b) setting means ~~(18)~~ for setting a parameter reflecting the degree of freedom in the runlength-limited coding~~, e.g. a merging bit pattern in the case of a CD,~~ based on said detected runlength polarity so as to obtain a predetermined polarity of a runlength at a second predetermined position of said runlength-limited code sequence, said parameter reflecting the degree of freedom in the runlength-limited coding~~, e.g. a merging bit pattern in the case of a CD,~~ preceding said second predetermined position;

c) wherein said predetermined polarity corresponds to a binary value of said secondary information signal.

8. (Currently Amended) A device for extracting a secondary information signal from a runlength-limited code sequence, said device comprising:

a) extracting means ~~(27)~~ for extracting a runlength at a predetermined position of said runlength limited code sequence; and

b) detecting means ~~(27)~~ for detecting a polarity of said extracted runlength;

c) wherein said detected polarity corresponds to a binary value of said secondary information signal.

9. (Original) A record carrier for storing a runlength-limited code sequence and a secondary information, said record carrier comprising a hidden channel for storing said secondary information as a polarity of a runlength at a predetermined position of said runlength-limited code sequence.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The record carrier ~~according to~~ as claimed in claim 9, wherein said record carrier is an optical record carrier~~, in particular a CD or DVD~~.

11. (Original) A binary signal comprising a runlength-limited code sequence and a secondary information, wherein said secondary information is incorporated in said binary signal as a polarity of a runlength at a predetermined position of said runlength-limited code sequence.